THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. At present, 836 items are reserved for exclusive manufacture in the small scale sector.

(b) and (c) As per policy, no medium/ large scale undertakings including multi-national companies are allowed to venture into the manufacture of items reserved for small scale sector except under 75% export obligation. In case, these undertakings had been manufacturing reserved items prior to the date of reservation, they can continue to do so after obtaining a Carry-On-Business (COB) Licence from the Government. Canteen Stores Department of Ministry of Defence procures items from manufacturers/authorised sole selling agents for sale to its clientele on the basis of their requirements, popularity and sales potential. The items are approved for introduction by Board of Administration which comprises senior officers of three services, viz. Army, Navy and Air Force. Besides, the items are introduced only if the same are established in the market. No preference is given to any category of suppliers, viz., Multi-national companies, large, medium, SSI etc.

(d) and (e) Violations of the provisions under the Reservation Policy is punishable udner Section 24 of Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951. In case of any violation of the provisions of the Reservation, the concerned administrative Ministry/Department initiates action against the violating firm.

Large scale import of steel from CIS Countries

1709. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of large scale import of steel from CIS countries as a result of lowering down of import duty on steel;

(b) if so, the details of the import of steel during the last six months; and

(c) the steps taken to safeguard the interest of the domestic producers of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) As per available information, about 4.75 lakh tonnes of steel was imported during April-July, 1996, including 0.25 lakh tonnes from CIS countries. The imports from the CIS countreis mainly comprised of Hot Rolled Coils/Skelp/Strips, Cold Rolled Coils Sheets, Tin Plates, Electrical Sheets and different forms of semi-finished steel.

(c) As per the existing policy, import of steel is freely allowed. However, provision exists in the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and the rules framed thereunder to investigate cases of dumping and levy an additional customs duty, if it is established that such dumping causes material injury to the domestic industry. The Designated Authority under the aforesaid Act has not, as on 5.12.1996, received any petition for imposition of Anti-Dumping Duties on any steel product.

Request from Gujarat Government for Allocation of 70,000 MTs of wheat

1710. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received from Gujarat State Government any request for the allocation of 70,000 MTs of wheat; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC